

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/602,922	BARGNES ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Susanna M. Diaz	3623

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address-

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

- This communication is responsive to Applicant's amendment filed December 14, 2004.
 - The allowed claim(s) is/are 4, 10, 11, 14-16, 35-40, 42, 43 and 45-50.
 - The drawings filed on 23 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
 - Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - All
 - Some*
 - None
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM the "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

- A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
- CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/20/04
- Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
- Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- Other _____.

Susanna Diaz
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PRIMARY EXAMINER
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Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 4, 10, 11, 14-16, 35-40, 42, 43, and 45-50 are allowed.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Stellix (both version 1.4 and its upgrade, version 2.1), as disclosed in "ADP Collision Repair Services Brings New Management Features to Body Shops with Release of Stellix 1.4" and "ADP Collision Repair Services and Akzo Nobel Announce Release of Stellix 2.1", discloses a computer-implemented method for tracking a vehicle during a vehicle-related collision repair multi-step process, including the steps of receiving a vehicle identifier in the analysis module such that the module can track the vehicle as well as monitoring for delays in the repair process (Stellix 1.4: ¶¶ 3, 4; Stellix 2.1: ¶¶ 3, 7, 8). Stellix, however, does not explicitly teach the steps of receiving and storing an amount of delay time associated with a delay reason and allocating a target time period for each day of the repair process to define a preselected daily time target and identification of a delay during a particular repair step of the repair process if the time allocated to the identified vehicle on a particular day is less than the preselected daily time target for that particular day. However, Marinucci teaches the scheduling of various automotive repair jobs. He also discusses the analysis associated with a technician's efficiency to perform various types of jobs (¶¶ 9, 11, 13, 16, 17). Marinucci defines technician efficiency as "the labor time you charge for a job divided by the time actually spent fixing the vehicle" (¶ 9). He then explains that the goal is for a technician to spend no more than the amount of labor time charged to the customer. However,

neither Stellix nor Marinucci nor the combination thereof teaches or suggests performing all of these steps in combination with associating a code with each of the reasons for the delays to identify particular problems occurring during the repair processes and reporting the proficiency of the repair processes using the analysis module by categorizing each of the codes to identify chronic problems occurring during the repair processes. This combination of features is recited in claims 4, 10, 11, 14-16, 35-40, 42, 43, and 45-50; therefore, claims 4, 10, 11, 14-16, 35-40, 42, 43, and 45-50 are deemed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following references gather repair-related data to assist in creating a more efficient vehicle repair process. The references also discuss the use of codes to identify repair problems; however, these code refer to specific types of vehicle failure (i.e., the reason for repair) as opposed to reasons for delays in the repair process, as recited in the claimed invention.

Kirkevold et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,263,322)

Phung et al. (US 2002/0007237)

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susanna M. Diaz whose telephone number is (703) 305-1337. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (703) 305-9643. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

March 2, 2005

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